

Annual Report for the African Youth Ambassador for Peace (AYAP) representing the Eastern Africa Region 2024



Contents

Introduction:	1
Activity 1: on 2nd - 5th of March 2024	2
Activity 2: - March 2024 (Accra II Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Governments, Ghana, Kempinski Hotel):.....	3
Activity 3: Regional Training on YPS, Kampala, Uganda (22nd-24th April 2024):.....	4
Activity 4 - Orientation and Training of AYAPs and Youth Experts, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (29th April May 2024).....	5
Activity 5: Expert Review & Validation of the Guideline for the Development of NAPs on CFYPS - Dakar, Senegal (6th-7th June 2024).....	5
Activity 6: National Youth Colloquium - Kampala, Uganda (20th June 2024).....	6
Activity 7: High-Level Dialogue on Democracy, Good Governance, and Inclusive Political Transition in North Africa - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (24th- 25th June 2024)	7
Activity 8: Sudan Women's Peace Dialogue - Entebbe, Uganda (3rd-4th July 2024).....	7
Activity 9: Joint AU/COMESA Election Observation Mission in Rwanda - Rwanda (10th-18th July 2024)	8
Activity 10: Regional Consultation on the New Agenda for Peace - Virtual Dialogue (5th August 2024)	9
Activity 11: Structured Dialogue with the African Youth on Peace and Security and the New Agenda for Peace - Lusaka, Zambia (22nd-24th August 2024)	9
Activity 12: Electoral Integrity in Africa Summit - Kampala, Uganda (10th- 12th September 2024)	10
Activity 13: Dialogue on Youth Action in Protracted Conflicts in the Great Lakes Region - Nairobi, Kenya (18th-21st September 2024).....	11

Activity 14: Geneva Peace Week - Geneva, Switzerland (14th-18th October 2024).....	11
Activity 15: Abidjan Border Forum - Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (23rd-24th October 2024).....	12
Activity 16: 15th High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security, and Stability in Africa. (25th-26th October 2024).	13
Activity 17: African Youth Forum in Algeria (1st -4th November 2024).	13
Activity 18: Leveraging African Youth Perspectives for Operationalizing the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy (11th/Nov/2024).	14
Activity 19: 3rd Intergenerational Dialogue “From Learning to Leading: Education as a Catalyst to the Advancement of the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda”.(12th-14th November 2024).	14
Activity 20: Duty Bearers' Peace Engagement Review Summit on Young women's engagement in Peace Processes in East Africa (21st/November 2024).	15
Activity 21: East African Youth Peace Seminar (Online event-19th November 2024):	16
Activity 22: Gendered Pathways to Peace with a focus on addressing violent extremism through collaborative partnerships (Online event – 7th December 2024):	17
Activity 23: Cross-generation conversation on peace and security with finalists and graduating former student leaders organized by (5th December 2024): ...	18
Activity 24: Continental Dialogue on Youth Peace and Security in Africa, (12th-13th December 2024) held in Bujumbura, Burundi.....	18
Activity 25: The Inter-regional Dialogue between Africa and the Americas (9th December 2024):	19
Challenges;.....	20
Priorities for 2025	21
Conclusion:.....	22



Introduction:

This report provides an overview of the key activities undertaken by the African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace (AYAP) – Eastern Africa in 2024. The activities reflect the continued efforts to enhance the participation of youth in peace and security initiatives across Africa, emphasizing their roles in decision-making processes, peacebuilding, and the promotion of inclusive governance.

These engagements include high-level dialogues, regional consultations, electoral observation missions, and structured forums that foster dialogue and promote action on critical peace and security issues across the continent. Below are the YPS activities and engagements.

Activity 1: on 2nd - 5th of March 2024

The Sudanese Youth Network conducted a founding conference in Entebbe, Uganda. The conference aimed to end the war and establish a civil democratic transformation in Sudan, bringing together over 160 youth from Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Chad, South Sudan, and Egypt. The conference focused on four specific objectives:

1. **Consolidating Efforts:** Bringing together Sudanese youth from diverse backgrounds to foster commitment to ending the war.
2. **Consensus on Political Vision:** Prioritizing peace, social justice, and human rights.
3. **Developing Organizational Structures:** Empowering youth to work efficiently and participate actively in decision-making processes.
4. **International and Regional Bodies' Role:** Ensuring mandates are fulfilled to build lasting peace in Sudan, deliver humanitarian aid to vulnerable youth, and establish a united national army for protection.



Key Efforts Discussed:

1. Ensuring justice considering ethnic, social, age, religious, and gender diversity.
2. Negotiating a ceasefire to end the war in Sudan.
3. Protecting those in the humanitarian sector.
4. Ending hate speech, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking.
5. Rehabilitating the national army and ensuring youth contributions in the security sector.
6. Promoting constitutional reforms for women and youth participation in political processes.
7. Establishing a special court for genocide cases.
8. Implementing the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agenda.

Activity 2: - March 2024 (Accra II Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Governments, Ghana, Kempinski Hotel):

In March 2024, the AYAP -East Africa participated in the Accra II Reflection Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of Governments was held at Kempinski Hotel, Ghana. The forum emphasized youth as key actors in addressing the root causes of unconstitutional governance. It empowered women and youth to prevent violence and promote sustainable democracy through active engagement and capacity building.



Activity 3: Regional Training on YPS, Kampala, Uganda (22nd-24th April 2024):

From April 22nd to 24th, 2024, a Regional Training on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) was held in Kampala, Uganda, bringing together participants from across the region. The training focused on equipping participants with a deep understanding of the continental frameworks on YPS and the structural operations of the East African Community (EAC). Through interactive sessions and expert-led discussions, participants gained critical insights into the YPS agenda, regional integration mechanisms, and the role of youth in fostering peace and security. This initiative aimed to strengthen participants' capacity to engage with these frameworks effectively and drive positive change in their communities.



Activity 4 - Orientation and Training of AYAPs and Youth Experts, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (29th April May 2024)

The AYAP participated in the Orientation and Training of AYAPs and Youth Experts in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from April 29 to May 2, 2024. The training focused on empowering youth and women in election observation processes, promoting their inclusion in electoral management, and preparing them as African Union election observers.

Activity 5: Expert Review & Validation of the Guideline for the Development of NAPs on CFYPS - Dakar, Senegal (6th- 7th June 2024)

The expert review and validation meeting took place in Dakar, Senegal, and focused on enhancing youth participation in peace and security. The draft guidelines for the development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) were reviewed, with feedback shared to improve the document. The event emphasized the importance of youth engagement at national, regional, and

continental levels, particularly through recognizing and appreciating the contributions of African youth to peacebuilding. Key objectives included fostering partnerships, enhancing collaboration among stakeholders (youth, civil society, academia, media, and the private sector), and promoting youth-led initiatives.

Activity 6: National Youth Colloquium - Kampala, Uganda (20th June 2024)

The National Youth Colloquium organized by the Interreligious Council of Uganda provided a platform for youth empowerment and addressed the socio-economic challenges affecting young Africans. During this colloquium, the AYAP participated and moderated the sessions, where youth raised concerns about unemployment, exclusion, and the negative influence of corrupt elders. The IRCU reaffirmed its commitment to involving youth in development programs and linking them to opportunities. Participants were encouraged to leverage innovation and digital technologies to drive change and contribute to Africa's development.





Activity 7: High-Level Dialogue on Democracy, Good Governance, and Inclusive Political Transition in North Africa - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (24th-25th June 2024)

This dialogue aimed to discuss the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in promoting democratization and peacebuilding, with a particular focus on North Africa. The AYAP participated and presented on how CSOs can contribute to

deepening democracy and fostering inclusive political transitions. The event facilitated discussions on strengthening democratic governance and ensuring that marginalized groups, including youth, are actively involved in political processes.

Activity 8: Sudan Women's Peace Dialogue - Entebbe, Uganda (3rd-4th July 2024)

The AYAP attended the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security and convened a high-level dialogue in Entebbe with Sudanese women from



diverse sectors. The aim was to build consensus among women and develop a gender-sensitive agenda for the peace process in Sudan. A position paper was produced, which will inform the AU's Sudan political process, with a focus on the meaningful inclusion of women in the upcoming peace dialogues.

Activity 9: Joint AU/COMESA Election Observation Mission in Rwanda - Rwanda (10th-18th July 2024)

As part of the AU/COMESA Election Observation Mission, the AYAP participated in the observation of Rwanda's presidential elections, which resulted in the re-election of President Paul Kagame. The YPS ambassador's role involved political contextual analysis, focusing on electoral laws, policies, and the participation of social interest groups in the electoral process. The election was peaceful, with full inclusion of women, youth, PWDs, and the elderly.

YOUTH VOICES, POLICY CHOICES: 9 YEARS OF UNSCR 2250

An inter-regional dialogue
between Africa and the Americas



Activity 10: Regional Consultation on the New Agenda for Peace - Virtual Dialogue (5th August 2024)

The AYAP participated in the virtual dialogue aimed to enhance the role of African youth in global peace and security discussions, particularly in the context of the New Agenda for Peace. It focused on synthesizing African youth peacebuilders' voices, building capacities, and fostering networks with regional, continental, and global stakeholders. The consultation identified barriers to youth participation in governance, including mistrust between the military and

communities, limited access to information, and a gap in youth capacity.

Activity 11: Structured Dialogue with the African Youth on Peace and Security and the New Agenda for Peace - Lusaka, Zambia (22nd-24th August 2024)

The AYAPs participated in the structured dialogue in Lusaka, an event that brought together African youth peacebuilders to discuss regional peace and security issues.

The dialogue produced a continental report that encapsulated the voices of youth peacebuilders on the New Agenda for Peace, which will be presented at the UN Security Council in October 2024. The event focused on advancing the implementation of the New Agenda for Peace and increasing youth participation in peace processes.

Activity 12: Electoral Integrity in Africa Summit - Kampala, Uganda (10th-12th September 2024)

The AYAP participated in the Kampala Electoral Integrity in Africa Summit, which focused on strengthening electoral transparency, public oversight, and collaborative reforms. Participants developed actionable strategies for enhancing electoral integrity frameworks across Africa, emphasizing the importance of cooperation among election observation networks and post-election follow-up strategies. Recommendations included ensuring equity in political party financing and regulating campaign financing.





Activity 13: Dialogue on Youth Action in Protracted Conflicts in the Great Lakes Region - Nairobi, Kenya (18th-21st September 2024)

The YPS ambassador participated in the dialogue in Nairobi focused on youth efforts in addressing protracted conflicts in the Great Lakes region, particularly in Eastern DRC. The discussion highlighted the needs and aspirations of young people affected by conflict and

explored avenues for youth to support sustainable peace. The event concluded with a communiqué emphasizing the operationalization of the ICGLR Youth Secretariat and promoting regional cooperation and youth empowerment in peacebuilding efforts.

Activity 14: Geneva Peace Week - Geneva, Switzerland (14th-18th October 2024)

During Geneva Peace Week, the AYAP participated as a panelist on "The 2024



Kofi Annan Geneva Peace Address: Rising Peacebuilders.” She discussed how religious and cultural diversity can be harnessed as a resource to promote peace in Africa. The Geneva Peace Week is a major international peacebuilding event that brings together organizations to share knowledge and practices related to peace.

Activity 15: Abidjan Border Forum - Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (23rd-24th October 2024)

The YPS ambassador participated in the Abidjan Border Forum, which focused on addressing the

environmental crisis threatening the stability of border areas in Africa, focusing on how environmental changes affect shared resources and cross-border security. One of the key outcomes was the call to involve youth in border governance to contribute to conflict prevention and resolution efforts. Participants highlighted the importance of sustainable agricultural practices and climate-resilient crops.



Activity 16: 15th High-Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security, and Stability in Africa. (25th-26th October 2024).

The High-Level Retreat focused on the Impact and Sustainability of AU Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation. The sessions were delivered through experts' presentations and panel discussions and emphasis was put on promoting the participation of young women in mediation and preventive diplomacy. The AYAP echoed the need

to enhance their capacity in mediation and widen avenues for participation in formal mediation processes.

Activity 17: African Youth Forum in Algeria (1st -4th November 2024).

The AYAP- East Africa participated as a speaker in the Pan African Youth Forum in Oran, Algeria. The focus was on promoting "1 Million Next Level: Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century," which seeks to provide opportunities to 300 million African youth by 2030 in education, employment, health, and well-being.



The focus of the presentation was on the AU frameworks & programs such as the Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security and the Wise-Youth Network, which aim to promote the YPS agenda and enhance the youth's role in mediation & preventive diplomacy.

**Activity 18:
Leveraging African
Youth Perspectives
for Operationalizing
the Post-Conflict
Reconstruction and
Development Policy
(11th/Nov/2024).**

The AYAP participated as a

panelist and her discussion focused on the interlinkage between the Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security and the Youth Inclusion Pillar in the revised Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development policy.

She underscored prioritizing investment in conflict prevention through Capacity Building, building effective and responsive state capacities & institutions, and fostering stakeholders' cooperation, collaboration, coordination, and cohesion.

Activity 19: 3rd Intergenerational Dialogue “From Learning to Leading: Education as a Catalyst to the Advancement of the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda”.(12th-14th November 2024).

This 3-day event was organized by COMESA in Kampala Uganda. As a panelist, the African Youth Ambassador for Peace – East Africa reiterated the need for investment in data collection and research on youth-related issues to inform evidence-based policymaking by creating youth-specific indicators for monitoring progress in AU Agenda 2063 and other youth development initiatives.

Activity 20: Duty Bearers’ Peace Engagement Review Summit on Young women’s engagement in Peace Processes in East Africa (21st/November 2024).

The African Youth Ambassador for Peace delivered a keynote address at the Duty Bearers’ Peace Engagement Review Summit on Young women’s engagement in Peace Processes in East Africa, organized by Kenya Coalition on Youth Peace and Security.





She invited shareholders to support efforts towards building the capacity of young women to understand the complex nature of conflicts and equip them with the right tools and skills to respond to the effects and root causes of violent conflict.

Activity 21: East African Youth Peace Seminar (Online event- 19th November 2024):

The AYAP-East Africa delivered a keynote during the East African Youth Peace Seminar; Themed Youth, Peace, and Security with a focus on Youth participation. She delved into addressing youth economic disparities by prioritizing sustainable livelihoods and food security initiatives.

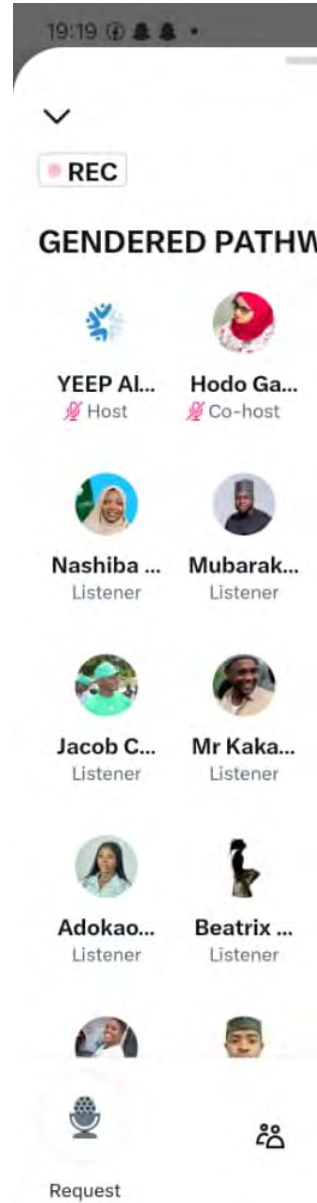
The AYAP underscored targeted funding for Youth-Led initiatives, strengthening youth inclusion in Preventive Diplomacy Initiatives, and leveraging technology and innovation as critical factors to maximize peace and security outcomes.

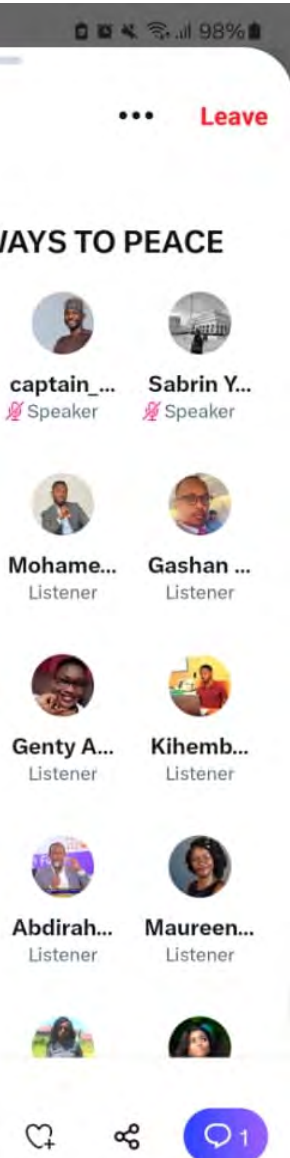


Activity 22: Gendered Pathways to Peace with a focus on addressing violent extremism through collaborative partnerships (Online event – 7th December 2024):

The AYAP delivered a keynote during a discussion on Gendered Pathways to Peace with a focus on addressing violent extremism through collaborative partnerships organized by YEEP Alumni Africa.

She highlighted that violence perpetrated by extremist groups not only destabilizes societies but also manifests in extreme forms of sexual and gender-based violence that disproportionately affects women, children, and marginalized communities. The AYAP reiterated promoting the development and implementation of NAPs on YPS and WPS which are critical to foster young women's engagement in peace-building efforts.





Activity 23: Cross-generation conversation on peace and security with finalists and graduating former student leaders organized by (5th December 2024):

The event was organized by Julius Nyerere Learning Centre in partnership with KAS and the AYAP participated as a speaker. In her submission, Nashiba emphasized the critical role of implementing the Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security and its 10-year implementation plan in enhancing the meaningful engagement and participation of the youth in peace and security efforts and invited stakeholders to support the development and implementation of NAPs on YPS.

Activity 24: Continental Dialogue on Youth Peace and Security in Africa, (12th-13th December 2024) held in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The Ambassador participated in the 3rd edition of the Continental Dialogue on Youth Peace and Security in Africa, under the theme; 'Empowering African Youth 4 Peace: Education & Enhanced Coordination as a Catalyst for Implementation of the Continental YPS Agenda', in the distinguished presence of the President of the Republic of Burundi,

HE: Evariste Ndayishimiye. The AYAP used the platform to popularise the outcome of the regional youth consultations on the New Agenda for Peace.

In her closing remarks the AYAP thanked the President of the Republic of Burundi for his commitment as the AU YPS Champion to supporting the continental framework on YPS and invited the young people to educate themselves and create awareness of the AU YPS agenda

Activity 25: The Inter-regional Dialogue between Africa and the Americas (9th December 2024):

The ambassador participated as a panelist during the inter-regional dialogue between Africa and the Americas. She deliberated on how youth across the region are actively implementing the YPS agenda. This was during the commemoration of the 9th anniversary of the Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth Peace and Security.

In her submission, she reiterated that the AU framework on YPS recognizes the overarching importance of advocating & promoting active & meaningful participation of youth at national, regional, & continental levels in decision-making processes, policy formulation & implementation. She stressed that young people's efforts at all levels must be recognized to foster sustainable outcomes of the YPS efforts.

YOUTH VOICE POLICY CHALLENGE

9 YEARS OF UNSCR 2250

H.E. Bankole Adeoye
African Union
Commissioner for
Political Affairs, Peace
and Security

H.E. Jacqui O'Neill
Canada's
Ambassador for
Women's Peace and
Security

Dr. UN
Sec
for

Joseph Akilimali
Co-Chair, DRC
Coalition for YPS

Ana Palada
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Coordinator at El
Milenio (Honduras)

Rosario Garavito
Founder
Execut
The Mil
Movem

canadayps.org

CCYPs
Canadian Coalition for
Youth, Peace &
Security

Youth Peace & Security
THE CHARTER

African Union

ICES, VOICES: F 2250

An inter-regional dialogue
between Africa and the Americas

Dec 9, 2024
10:00-11:30 AM
Ottawa Time
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Interpretation:

- Arabic
- English
- French
- Spanish



Felipe Paulier
Assistant
Secretary-General
Youth Affairs



Simone Diouf
Youth Ambassador
for Peace for West
Africa, African Union



Nakabira Nashiba
Youth Ambassador
for Peace for East
Africa, African Union



Katrina Leclerc
Government
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Canadian Coalition
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Vanessa Wyeth
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Country
Representative,
UNFPA Liberia



Felipe Diaz
Co-ordinator and
Executive Director of
Millennials
Movement (Peru)



<https://www.un.org/2250>

Challenges;

The slow development of the National Action Plans on Youth Peace and Security in Eastern African region. However, countries like Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia have made significant strides in integrating youth into peace support operation efforts.

Limited resources for youth-led peace initiatives. This has limited young people's engagement in peace efforts at all levels.

The continued marginalization of youth in decision-making processes hampers their contribution to the Youth Peace and Security Agenda. Youth representation has been limited to tokenism, which compounds their challenges in the peace and security landscape.

Priorities for 2025

1. Strengthening stakeholders' coordination on the development and implementation of the Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security (CFYPS), by establishing a regional task force on YPS.
2. Supporting the development and implementation of National Action Plans on Youth Peace and Security in the region, through conducting stakeholders YPS training and conducting youth consultations on YPS,
3. Establishing and operationalizing Youth for Peace Chapters in Universities and Communities.
4. Conducting strategic advocacy to ensure representation of youth needs and priorities in development programs and frameworks at all levels.
5. The Female African Union Youth Ambassadors for Peace intend to Launch the Mentorship Program targeting Young Women leaders across Africa (discussions are still ongoing)
6. We intend to collaborate with the different stakeholders to mobilize resources for regional consultations to inform Uganda's NAP development process.



Conclusion:

The activities outlined in this report demonstrate the AU Youth Peace and Security Ambassador's continued commitment to advancing the role of African youth in peacebuilding and security efforts. These engagements have contributed to meaningful dialogue, the development of youth-led initiatives, and the strengthening of partnerships among key stakeholders in the peace and security sector. Moving forward, these efforts will continue to shape the youth peace and security landscape in 2025, ensuring that young Africans play a central role in shaping a peaceful and secure future for the continent.





Interested in how we work,
get In touch,

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